

Didn't Know of Raus' Link With CIA, Investigator for His Defense Testifies

The attorney - investigator hired to help defend Yuri Raus, who has been publicly identified as a Central Intelligence Agency agent, testified yesterday he didn't know anything about Raus' connection with the CIA.

Under questioning by Robert J. Standard, one of Heine's two attorneys, LaVenia identified himself as an investigator and an attorney and said he had been hired by Hogan & Hartson, the law firm defending Raus.

Details Withheld

He was not permitted, however, to answer questions about how much he had been paid, whom he had talked to in the course of the investigation or where he had traveled during the investigation. Paul R. Connolly, one of Raus' two attorneys, objected that these questions were irrelevant and that they infringed on the relationship between an attorney and his client.

At least one part of the case was under review, meanwhile, at the White House.

The executive order, first issued in 1933 and revised as recently as March 6, 1963, spells out who can classify—or declassify—government information as top secret, secret or confidential and what precautions must be taken to protect government secrets.

While the order was designed to protect secrets, it was also designed to prevent any government official who felt like it from stamping "secret" on any paper that crossed his desk.

As a further precaution against overzealousness on the part of those with the secrecy

"Review to insure that information is not improperly withheld hereunder: The President shall designate a member of his staff who shall receive, consider, and act upon, suggestions or complaints from nongovernmental sources relating to the operation of this order."

McPherson is the official designated by the President and it was to him that Heine's attorneys addressed their request for White House intervention in the case.

They have argued in court that they are prevented by the secrecy imposed on the details of Raus' job for the CIA from making an effective challenge of Raus' defense that, because he was a government official acting in the course of his duties, he was absolute immune against a slander suit.

Arguments on the motion by Raus' attorneys for a summary judgment in the case are scheduled to be heard in Baltimore May 19 by Chief Federal District Judge Roger C. Thomson.